

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 IOE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 CU-02

SCCT-01 NEA-06 L-01 PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 INRE-00

SSO-00 EUR-08 AF-04 /053 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8125

S E C R E T PARIS 08411

NESCO

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, PORG, UNESCO, US

SUBJECT: PLO SEEKS RECOGNITION BY UNESCO EXBD.

REF: PARIS 6554

1. DDG FOBES INFORMED PERMREP THAT TUNISIAN PERMREP
M. RAFID SAID IS CIRCULATING LETTER SEEKING CO-SPONSORS
TO ADD NEW AGENDA ITEM TO MAY EXBD. MEETING WHICH IN
EFFECT WOULD GRANT PLO DELEGATION PERMANENT OBSERVER
STATUS AT HEADQUARTERS. AT PRESENT PLO, LIKE OTHER
OBSERVERS, HAS RIGHT ONLY TO ATTEND ALL UNESCO MEETINGS.
MOTIVE IS TO ACCORD "OFFICIAL" STANDING TO PLO WHICH
WILL ASSIST PLO IN PRESSING FOR FULL INDEPENDENT STATUS
AT GENEVA MID EAST PEACE TALKS. INFORMATION IS THAT
PLO DOES NOT WISH ATTEND CONFERENCE THROUGH ARAB LEAGUE
OR ANY ARAB GOVERNMENT AND UNESCO MOVE IS FIRST STEP
TO SEEK INDEPENDINT RECOGNITION. UNESCO SELECTED BE-
CAUSE IT IS FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE RESOLUTION OF
GOVERNING BODY AND PLO UNWILLING WAIT NEXT SESSION UN.
ACTIONS OF SAID AND PLO REPRESENTATIVES IN PARIS ARE
HURRIED EFFORT FORCE A FAVORABLE DECISION BEFORE CON-

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VENING GENEVA CONFERENCE.

2. ACCORDING TO FOBES, EAST EUROPEANS HAVE SO FAR REFUSED CO-SPONSOR NEW AGENDA ITEM, BUT WILL VOTE FOR IT. AFRICANS NOW BEING CONSULTED AND UNCLEAR IF ANY WILL CO-SPONSOR, BUT INFORMATION IS THAT THEY ARE RESISTING. AFRICAN DELEGATES CLOSE TO DG M'BOW ARE OPPOSING CO-SPONSORSHIP

3. RULE OF PROCEDURE FOR NEW AGENDA ITEMS REQUIRES ONLY MAJORITY VOTE OF BOARD. MUST DISTINGUISH BETWEEN CO-SPONSORS AND VOTES. PLO WOULD LIKE NON-ARAB CO-SPONSORS, BUT THIS NOT ESSENTIAL FOR INCLUSION OF NEW ITEM. THEREFORE, ITEM CAN AND EVIDENTLY WILL BE PROPOSED EVEN IF ARABS ONLY CO-SPONSORS.

4. THERE IS NO DIRECT LEGAL PRECEDENT TO THIS EFFORT. QUESTION IS WHETHER EXBD. HAS POWER TO GRANT PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS TO PLO DELEGATION BY ITS OWN RESOLUTION OR BY DIRECTING THE DG TO ACT. LEGAL ADVISER WILL LIKELY GIVE VAGUE RESPONSE AS IS HIS CUSTOM. HE MAY SEEK PRECEDENT IN CASE OF VATICAN WHICH IS ONLY "NON-STATE" TO HAVE AN ACCREDITED UNESCO REPRESENTATIVE. IN CASE OF VATICAN, EXBD. ACTED TO PERMIT VATICAN TO HAVE AN ACCREDITED DELEGATION. THEREFORE, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE LEGALLY FOR EXBD TO ACT. PERMDEL WILL IMMEDIATELY SEEK MORE INFORMATION THIS POSSIBILITY.

5. INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO SECRETARIAT IS THAT, AT LEAST AT THIS STAGE, GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE WILL OPPOSE ANY ACCREDITATION OF PLO. POSSIBLE FRANCE COULD RAISE STATUS OF HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT WITH UNESCO IF SUFFICIENTLY OPPOSED. PERMDEL WILL TAKE SOUNDING WITH FRENCH DELEGATION.

6. INITIAL ASSESSMENT PERMDEL IS THAT PLO EFFORT WILL PROBABLY SUCCEED IN A VOTE WITH MANY ABSTENTIONS FROM AFRICANS AND OTHER LDC'S BUT WITH SOVIET BLOC AND ARABS HAVING ENOUGH VOTES.

7. COMMENT: AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, DG M'BOW HAS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED TO PERMDEL THAT PLO APPLICATION TO
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OPEN MISSION HERE WOULD BE REJECTED IN STRICT INTERPRETATION UN/ESCO REGULATIONS. ARABS AWARE OF M'BOW'S POSITION AND THEREFORE HAVE EVIDENTLY DECIDED TO BRING MATTER TO EXBD WHERE POLITICAL BALANCE THEIR FAVOR.
RUSH

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